

Injuries are a major cause of emergency department visits. The morbidity associated with injuries is costly on an individual and a societal level (1, 2). A greater understanding of the epidemiology of injuries should lead to improved injury prevention strategies and decreases in the incidence of injuries.

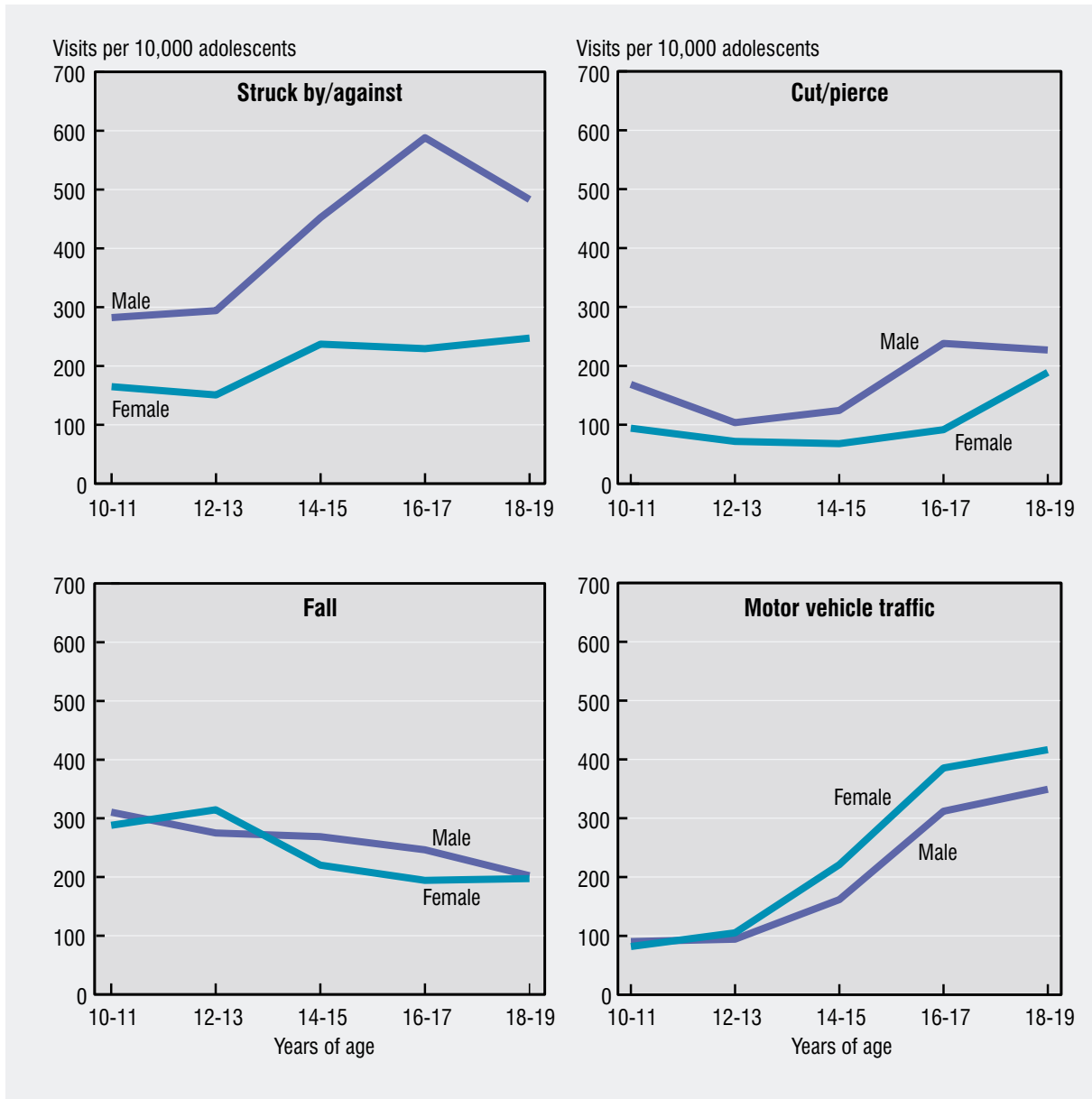
■ One in five injury-related emergency department visits among adolescents resulted from “being struck by or against an object or a person”. Sports-related injuries made up 41 percent of the injuries in this category. At each age, the “struck by...” rate for males was about twice the rate for females. Rates for male adolescents 14–19 years of age were higher than for younger males.

■ Injury visit rates associated with motor vehicle traffic injuries (14 percent of all injury-related visits) were similar for males and females at each age, with large relative increases at 14–15 years and at 16–17 years for both sexes. In contrast to nonfatal motor vehicle injuries, motor vehicle traffic-related death rates for males were higher than for females at each age from 10–19 years (see figure 17).

## References

1. Rice DP, Mackenzie EJ, Associates. Cost of injury in the United States: A report to Congress. San Francisco, California: Institute for Health and Aging, University of California and Injury Prevention Center. The Johns Hopkins University. 1989.
2. Burt CW, Fingerhut LA. Injury visits to hospital emergency departments: United States, 1992-95. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 13(131). 1998.

**Figure 10. Emergency department visit rates for selected external causes of injury among adolescents 10–19 years of age, by age and sex: United States, average annual 1995–97**



NOTES: See Technical Notes for discussion of emergency department visits. See also Appendix I, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. See Data Table for data points graphed.

SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS). See related *Health, United States, 2000*, table 84.